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The Spectator

Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016

Volume LVI
Number 15

Citizen author Claudia Rankine gives powerful lecture on race and imagery

by Noelle Connors '19
Staff Writer

This Monday, Feb. 8, Claudia Rankine, award-winning author of the 2014 book *Citizen, An American Lyric*, visited campus to give an enlightening discussion and reading of her work and the circumstances surrounding it. The book brings the discussion of race to the level of individuals.

It is not only an argument against police brutality and systematic injustice, but an argument against everyday actions which many just ignore, or otherwise do not see as a problem. *Citizen* is a compilation of poetry, prose and images, and Rankine's lecture followed a similar format.

The Chapel was filled for the highly anticipated reading. After an introduction by Professor of Creative Writing Naomi Guttman, Rankine discussed the images within *Citizen.* She read from the book, added stories and details and showed powerful videos which addressed similar issues. Rankine began by discussing the significance of the hoodie on the book's cover, a 1993 work by David Himmons entitled "In the Hood."

She chose a hoodie specifically because "we all own one, or we all could own one." However, the hoodie also represents the criminalization of black people, especially black men, and the executioner's hood worn by people such as those in the KKK. The hoodie, like many other images in her book, represents the daily microaggressions people of color face in America, and draws attention to the effects of these injustices.

Discussing a photo in the book of a suburban intersectionat a street called Jim Crow Rd., Rankine said, "We don't think about the way we segregate our lives. You never see people who don't look like you inside your house." Throughout her discussion, Rankine utilized not only images but videos as well.

"It was very powerful, especially with the combination of her reading parts of her book out loud, the pictures on the slide shows and the short films [she] and her husband made. All of these things combined to make this an emotional and personal experience for me," Eva Lynch-Comer '19 said.

Rankine showed twoemotionally charged films, a collage of surveillance videos of recent police brutality, and a film detailing society's ideas about whiteness.

These striking films caused audience members to question beliefs in what is ordinary, and even beneficial to society, such as trusting our neighbors and looking out for each other.

After hearing the day to day injustices people of color face in America, these videos were in shocking contrast to that which is typically believed (in part) because they emphasized how major the problem is. It is a problem that people of color face everyday, and it does not just cause small problems; it endangers lives.

"It is such difficult material, really difficult for her to read and really difficult for us as an audience to hear, but at no point did it become unbearably depressing," Rachel Alatalo '18 told *The Spectator*. "She managed to strike a really graceful balance."

One of Rankine's main messages in both her poetry and discussion was that "we are in the habit of doing the next thing." By this, Rankine means that when we observe microagressions or other injustices in our daily lives, we do not stop to address them, but continue about our lives for fear of making the situation uncomfortable.

*see **Rankine**, page 2*

PHOTO BY OLIVIA FULLER '19

The Hamilton College Choir presented Sondheim's greatest hits in *Sondheim on Sondheim* Feb. 5-7. Review on page 11.

Emphasis on faculty diversity as large number of retiring professors necessitates new hires

by Emily Eisler '17
Staff Writer

The administration is currently in the process of hiring a number of tenure-track faculty members for the 2016-2017 academic year. The search is underway for 12 new professors, a higher number than usual due to the amount of faculty members hired when the faculty expanded in the 1970s and 1980s.

The expansion of the faculty three to four decades ago was due to a number of reasons including Hamilton's absorption of Kirkland College by Hamilton and a nationwide increase in the number of college students.

Since many of the professors hired during that time are retiring soon, the College is now faced with the decision of where those positions will go.

Dean of Faculty Patrick Reynolds spoke about the process that goes into hiring new professors, which includes interviewing the top three or four finalists for each position; this year the College will be conducting more than 40 interviews in total. Most of the candidates applying to positions at the College are just starting their careers after finishing doctorate programs.

The administration is currently in the home stretch of the hiring process, and Reynolds stated that he is very impressed with the academic strength and diversity of the applicants he has met. Reynolds noted that the quality of these candidates reflects Hamilton's ability to attract academics from the top of their fields from across the country.

Roughly 25 percent of the faculty will retire in the next five years; another 19 percent will retire in the next five to ten years.

Currently about 95 percent of Hamilton's faculty are tenured or on the tenure track. The remaining faculty are employed in either renewable contract positions or as replacements to full professors on leave for various reasons. As of the end of January, seven of the 13 positions have been filled, with a few more soon to be finalized.

The professors hired will start at the entry level as assistant professors, and later be promoted to associate and eventually full professorship.

The College rarely hires visiting professors for tenure track positions. Consultants come in during the year to discuss best hiring practices with departmental search committees.

This has been especially helpful this year, since the large amount of retirees means that some departments have not had to search for new faculty for at least a few years.

Reynolds stated that from the beginning, the College has been concerned with faculty diversity and what actions to take to promote it. By examining studies revealing how many doctoral students eligible for positions at colleges like Hamilton are people of color, administrators are able to gauge what proportion of applicants, and therefore new hires, they should expect.

According to Reynolds, currently about 25 percent of doctorates across all academic fields are non-white. Hamilton asks in their faculty applications for job candidates to speak about how they are contributing to an increasingly diverse campus. Of the seven already confirmed new hires, two are people of color.

Hamilton tends to be especially attractive to job candidates due to the number of support mechanisms for new faculty, such as clearly expressed expectations for tenure, mentorship for faculty and funding to help with their new scholarship at the College.

About ten tenure track positions will be open to applications next year as well.

Poet Rankine discusses microaggressions, police brutality and creating art

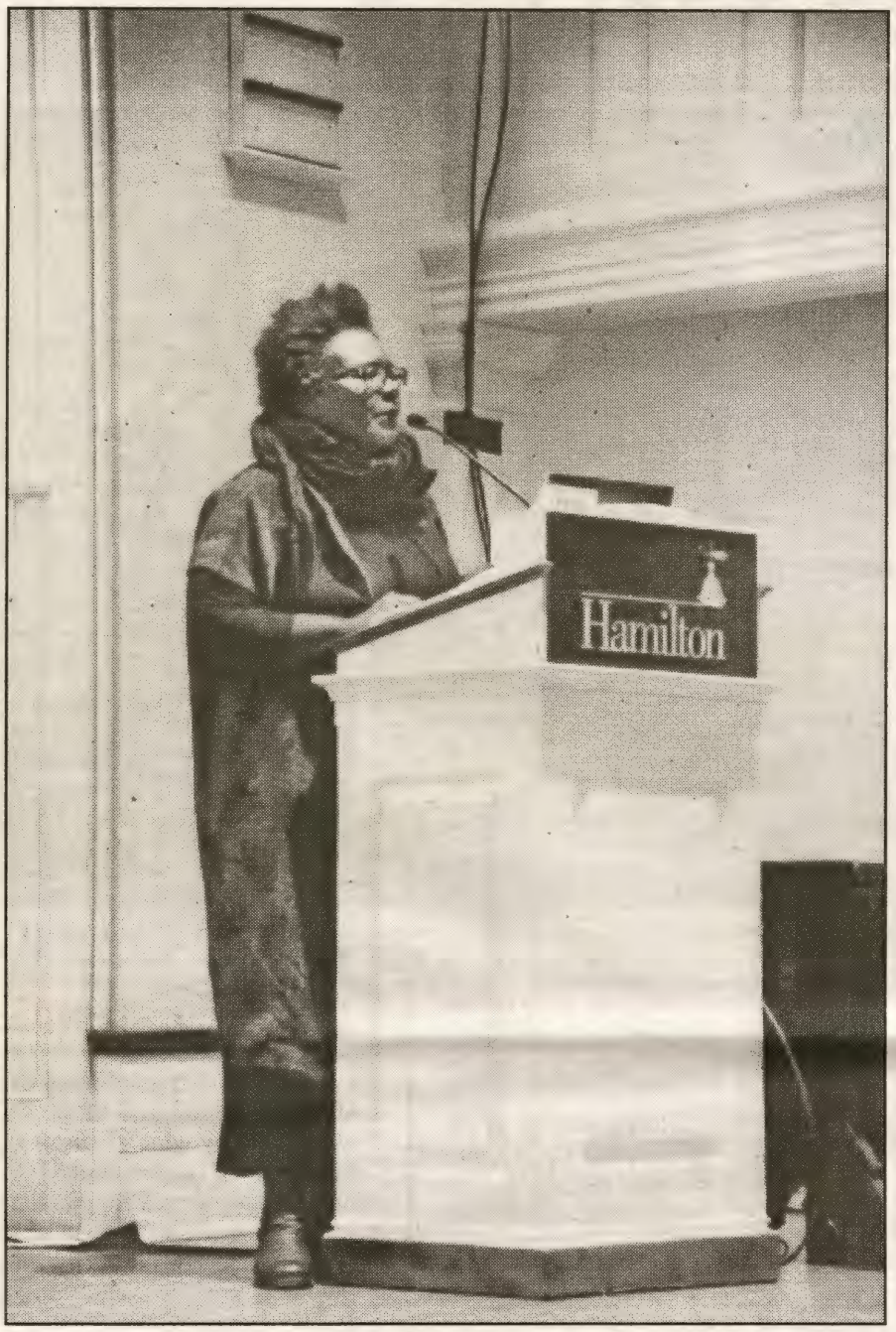


PHOTO BY OLIVIA FULLER '19

from ***Citizen,*** *page 1*

"We are so unwilling to make our spaces uncomfortable that we will take it and take it again," Rankine said.

To continue this point, Rankine described that the image she chose to represent black people in America was that of a fearful deer. She chose this representation because deer are frightened when people come close and have to be constantly vigilant.

Rankine urged the audience to acknowledge this tendency, and to recognize how often we just move on to the next thing. In response to a question at the end of her talk, Rankine reflected on her reasons for choosing to write in the second person.

She described her reasons for not using the first person saying, "I didn't want to imply that it was my life, that I could change it by moving from California to Chicago."

Instead, she wanted it to be read as a collection of stories. Furthermore, she was drawn to second person as she felt that it inserted her reader into the story.

She addressed the fact that many readers believe that "we are beyond racism now," but she wanted to force the reader to experience life from these other perspectives so that the presence of racism is undeniable, and so that the reader can feel the pain experienced by people in these terrible situations.

Rankine also described how she didn't want it to be a collection of her stories, but of ordinary people's stories, so she interviewed her friends. Rankine wanted *Citizen* to be a story not of the extraordinary, but of the ordinary, where people at the grocery store, a friends' house or buying breakfast are reduced to their race.

"It was disheartening and heartbreaking but at least these conversations are being had, and through her book, Claudia Rankine is making the severity of the issue of racism in America known," Lynch-Comer said.

"I thought she showed a lot of control over both her material and her audience," Collin Spinney '16 said. "She provided some really intimate background information, which was great because so often writers just come and tell us what we already know about the book."

Through Rankine's enlightening talk, students, faculty and community members gained valuable insight into the ordinary injustices of life for people of color living in America and received an opportunity to hear moving poetry and learn from images and videos.

AMHERST BATES BOWDOIN COLBY CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

NESCAC NEWS

by Rylee Carrillo-Waggoner '19
Staff Writer

Trinity College assistant professor coauthors parenting book

Trinity College Assistant Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience Molly Helt recently co-authored *The Activity Kit for Babies and Toddlers at Risk: How to Use Everyday Routines to Build Social Communication Skills*. The aim of the book is to provide parents a way to aid their child's development through activities in their everyday lives using easy to understand language. The book has become widely successful and is currently being translated into Korean and Turkish.

Tufts University releases new food study

Tufts University just released a study, and for the foodies out there, the news isn't great. Apparently, regardless of whether a restaurant is something fast and greasy like Wendy's or standard Italian, meals at over 92 percent of restaurants are incredibly calorie packed. The University studied 364 restaurants that varied in atmospheres and food selection but the results were especially concerning for American, Chinese and Italian fare, which had the highest calorie counts with a mean of 1,495 calories per meal.

New online courses now offered at Wesleyan University

Wesleyan University has been a part of an online community of learners for awhile, offering a variety of free online courses through Coursea. Recently, they took this a step further and have begun offering classes in creative writing. These classes are the first creative writing classes on Coursea and will be taught by Professor Brando Skyhorse, Professor Amity Gaige, Professor Amy Bloom and Professor Salvatore Scibona.

Williams College grad premieres movie at Sundance Film Festival

Williams College graduate Sarah Megan Thomas '01 produced a new film, *Equity*, which premiered in late January at the Sundance Film Festival. The movie provides insight into being a woman with a high position on Wall Street. These women reveal how they fought their way to the top, combatting sexism the whole way. Most shocking of these stories are ones where woman hid pregnancies from co-workers. These women provide insight into being a woman in a man's world. The movie stars Anna Gunn from "Breaking Bad" and has so far received largely positive reviews.

MIDDLEBURY TRINITY TUFTS WESLEYAN WILLIAMS

Hamilton and Town of Kirkland discuss plans for solar farm to increase College's renewable energy use

by Liam Wallace '16
Staff Writer

Hamilton is currently seeking approval from the Town of Kirkland Planning Board for an 11.9 acre, 8,370 panel solar farm. When complete, the project will dramatically increase Hamilton's utilization of renewable energy. The site selected for the solar farm lies off of Campus Road, situated primarily in two large fields just beyond the golf course.

With the capacity to produce 3.7 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually, the project far surpasses the College's goal of producing 750,000 kilowatt hours as laid out in the 2009 "Hamilton Climate Action Plan."

This initial goal provided for only three percent of Hamilton's annual energy usage, approximately 24.8 million kilowatt hours. The new solar farm will produce almost 15 percent of the College's energy needs, far exceeding the 2009 expectations. This is part of a larger goal set by the same plan to incrementally reduce Hamilton's carbon output and becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

Hamilton is working with the solar energy company SolarCity to complete the project. Aside from providing the land for the solar farm, the College will bare none of the supply and building costs of the project. Instead, SolarCity will build the solar farm itself, then sell the electricity produced to the College.

When asked what led Hamilton to a partnership with a private firm to develop the project, Associate Vice President for Facilities & Planning Steve Bellona said, "I probably was getting a phone call a week" from renewable energy companies looking to build a solar farm on campus. "Finally we just said 'ok, let's put out a proposal'" for the project.

Working with a consultant, Hamilton considered three different companies, ultimately choosing SolarCity following a review of the potential benefits of working with each company.

The initial agreement between Hamilton and SolarCity is for 20 years of solar energy production. However, Bellona noted that the College might persist in using the solar farm. "In 20 years, depending on how [the solar farm] is operating, there is an option for us to continue the contract." Additionally, there is "another option for us to purchase it and the other option is for them just to take it away."

Shaded areas indicate areas where solar panels will be placed across the two fields on Griffin Road.

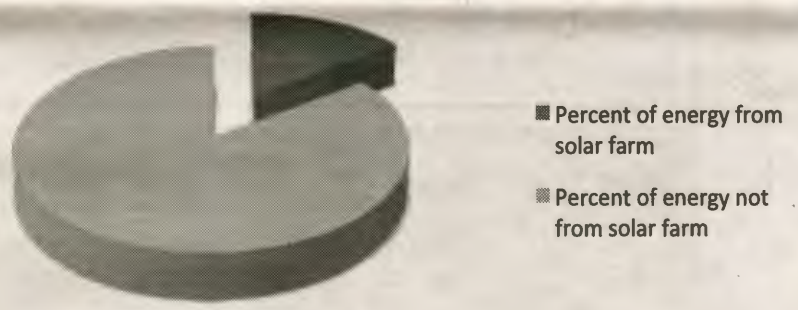
Though the project is not formally underway, as the Town of Kirkland Planning Board has yet to approve it, Bellona anticipates that SolarCity will complete the installation quickly. The current estimated time of completion is three to four months after the start of the project.

Even with a large amount of the planning already complete, the project's approval is not a done deal.

Bellona noted that at recent public hearings, some people voiced complaints about the project. He said that the project makes a "change to the current landscape of a period of time and that is going to impact people." The goal at this point is to "hear their voices and try to reduce the impact that a system like this might have" on those in opposition.

Despite the concerns of some, Bellona is optimistic about the project. "Beyond that, I don't necessarily see a lot of problems associated with the system and us being able to put it in place."

Projected energy use for the College



By the Numbers:

3-4 months — estimated time of completion
2050 — year by which Hamilton plans to be carbon neutral
3.7 million — farm's capacity, in killowatt hours of electricity produced annually
24.8 million — Hamilton's annual energy usage, in killowatt hours

Campus Safety Incident Report

In an effort to increase Campus Safety's transparency and draw attention to students' dangerous and destructive behaviors, *The Spectator* will publish a selection of the previous weekend's incidents each Thursday. The entire report is available in the online edition of *The Spectator*. Both Campus Safety and *The Spectator* will use their discretion regarding what is published.

Thursday, February 4, 2016

2:30 P.M. Motor Vehicle Accident – Dunham Lot
6:15 P.M. Parking Complaint – Siuda House
7:29 P.M. Smoke Detector – Babbitt Hall

Friday, February 5, 2016

12:55 A.M. Smoke Detector – Kirkland Hall
2:52 P.M. Medical Emergency – Taylor Science Center
3:32 P.M. Alarm Activation – Commons Dining Hall
6:23 P.M. Alarm Malfunction – South Campus
6:42 P.M. Medical Emergency – Commons Dining Hall
8:35 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
9:10 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Minor Hall
9:35 P.M. Mechanical Issue – Alumni Gym
10:01 P.M. Smoke Detector – Milbank Hall
11:47 P.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
11:54 P.M. Mechanical Issue – McIntosh Hall

Saturday, February 6, 2016

12:18 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
1:04 A.M. Area Check – Sadove Center
4:41 P.M. Property Recovery – Campus Safety Office
8:41 P.M. Odor of Natural Gas – Ferguson House
10:41 P.M. Medical Emergency – The Bristol Center

Sunday, February 7, 2016

1:24 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
1:24 A.M. Noise Complaint – Milbank Hall
2:39 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
9:35 A.M. Medical Emergency – Residence Hall
3:00 P.M. Disorderly Conduct – Fieldhouse

The future of the faculty

As our article on faculty hiring this week ("Emphasis on faculty hiring") notes, 25 percent of Hamilton's faculty is expected to retire in the next five years with another 19 percent within 10 years. Combined, that's almost half in just a decade. Entire departments are changing radically, and many of the professors who have long been the core of them will be handing the reins to academics with new perspectives and priorities. This is a time of major change for the College.

Students have the opportunity to significantly shape this change as it occurs. Last semester, a number of students voiced their support for Visiting Assistant Professor of Africana Studies Reynaldo Ortiz-Minaya. They temporarily occupied Buttrick Hall, calling for the professor's contract to be extended. While students became involved at a point when they could not influence his hiring, this action sets a standard for how seriously students should take their opportunity to influence the make-up of faculty.

Every department invites concentrators to meet candidates for open positions and encourages them to attend and evaluate sample classes. Students are also asked to write reviews of professors eligible for tenure as part of that process.

We call on our fellow students to take every single hiring seriously. If we want to increase faculty diversity, we must proactively contest every hire to that end. Whatever our values are, we must pursue them at every opportunity. The opportunities are growing ever more numerous, and student involvement must rise to meet them. This is the moment to make the future of the campus resemble what we want for it now.

The Spectator editorial represents the opinions of the majority of the editorial board. It is not necessarily unanimously agreed upon.

The Spectator

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Professor Isserman's letter is in response to concerns over criticisms of two of his colleagues on the faculty.

To the editor:

I first got to know Heather Merrill and Donald Carter of the Africana Studies department on a long bus ride in December 2014, when we were part of a small band of faculty accompanying a large group of Hamilton students to the Black Lives Matter protest march in New York City. I was impressed then, and remain impressed, by their commitment to both social justice issues and to their students.

Every year I teach the history of "Freedom Summer" in my contemporary US history class, and like to point out that Freedom Summer's director was Bob Moses of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, an alum of the Class of 1956. So, naturally, I was interested to read Heather and Donald's January 31, 2016 article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* entitled "What Black Campus Activists Can Learn From the Freedom Summer of 1964." I agree entirely with their argument that the civil rights movement was as successful as it was because it combined moral urgency with shrewd politics, which Heather and Donald describe as a politics of "coalition building, thoughtful long-term planning, and coordinated action." There are, as they suggest, valuable and relevant lessons we can learn from the heroic and pragmatic example provided by Bob Moses and his generation of activists.

I am proud to have Professors Merrill and Carter as colleagues, and I believe Hamilton students are fortunate to have them as teachers.

Sincerely,

Maurice Isserman
Professor of History

The Spectator is a publication of the Hamilton College Media Board. A volunteer staff of students handles all aspects of the weekly publication. The purpose of the newspaper is to provide the Hamilton Community with an honest, fair, timely and high-quality publication.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Spectator's Letter to the Editor section is designed to be a forum for the entire Hamilton community to discuss and debate campus, local, national and global issues. Pieces published in the section express the opinion of the individual writers and are not necessarily the opinions of *The Spectator*, its editors or the Media Board.

Letters to the Editor are welcome from all students, alumni/ae, faculty, friends of the college and Hamilton community members.

The Spectator has the following policies for submission:

1. Submissions are due by 10:00 p.m. on the Monday before publication. The editors reserve the right to refuse any late submissions.
2. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. The editors reserve the right to cut off letters at 500 words.
3. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.
4. *The Spectator* reserves the right not to publish any letter it deems inappropriate for publication.
5. If a piece is determined to be libelous, an unwarranted invasion of privacy, or an unnecessary and/or unwarranted ad hominem or personal attack, it will not be published.

About Us

The Hamilton College Spectator, *publication number USPS 612-840, is published weekly by the Hamilton College Student Media Board while classes are in session. For more information e-mail spec@hamilton.edu. Our offices are located on the second floor of the Sadove Student Center. The deadline for advertisements is Monday the week of publication. For further information, please e-mail specads@hamilton.edu.*

The power of Rankine's poetry

by Caroline Harrington '16
OPINION EDITOR

What is racism? Though seemingly straightforward, this question has sparked debate and subsequent movements across college campuses nationwide. On Monday Feb. 8 the poet Claudia Rankine graced the Hamilton College Chapel and attempted to answer this question.

Rankine's award-winning book of poetry, *Citizen*, is home to many short poems on microaggressions that she accrued by asking acquaintances to "tell me a story where you were doing something ordinary and someone said something that reduced you to your race." Having previously read this book for a current Creative Writing course, I was intrigued to find out how her works held up in a public setting. My first reading of the book left me in awe. I was unable to finish it in one sitting as the content made me feel too uncomfortable. Rankine very blatantly points out tendencies of daily racism in the form of microaggressions that most people do not notice they are perpetuating. The reactions of the crowd during these readings did not disappoint. Even those who had not experienced Rankine prior to the reading were still completely enraptured by her presence and her subject matter.

A contemporary poet, Rankine plays with form and composed some of her works into short videos that combine her reading, music and imagery to create a sensory experience catalyzing an emotional response. An interesting technique that Rankine utilizes is a strong monotone in reading. Despite her personable nature and humorous personality—she had us laughing even when she mentioned heavy subject matter—Rankine exclusively read her poetry, in video and live, in monotone. Through this she demonstrated just how common these moments of racism and microaggression are. Without inflection, Rankine seemed to challenge the listeners to listen to the words themselves and then react to the content. She also allowed for the personal interpretations of each audience member.

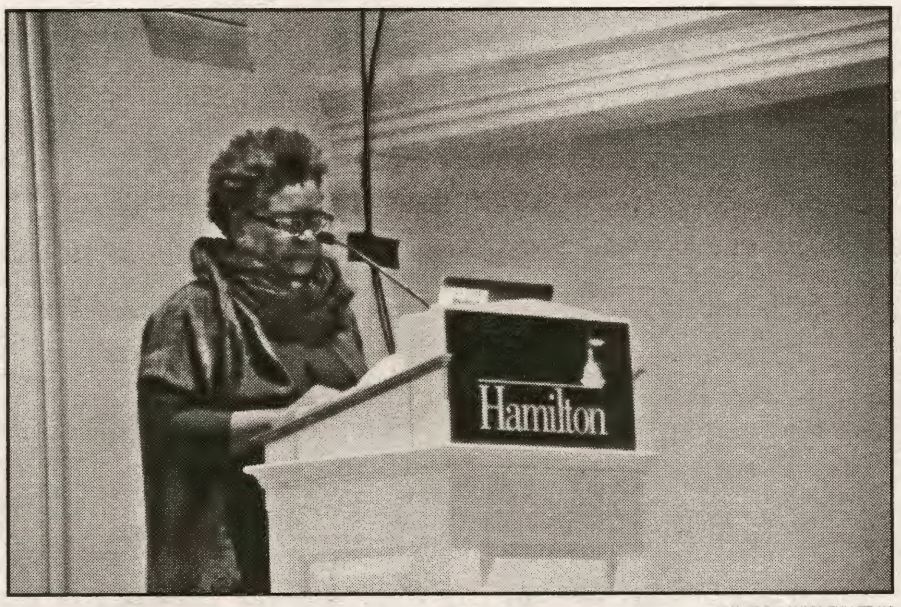

PHOTO BY OLIVIA FULLER '19

Claudia Rankine reads poems from her book *Citizen* to students.

One video, "Situation 8," evoked particularly powerful reactions. I heard sniffles break out throughout the campus's spiritual hub. The video's poem was a surprise for the audience as it was not one published in *Citizen*. Backed by a montage of clips with evidence of blatant racist police brutality, the poem speaks of trust. Is there trust in our society? Are black citizens safe if they place trust in authority figures?

This is a really difficult question, and one that I am not comfortable even attempting to answer. But what I do know, and what Rankine emphasized, is that "The only reason the same problems continue is because all of us are letting them continue." It is the daily microaggressions—the slip of the tongue, the "you look like a white person, not a black person," the "sorry, I didn't see you," the "can I touch your hair," the averted gaze—these are the things that perpetuate racism in modern society. To me, it seems that things such as police brutality and systemic racism only come from the prior mentality that allows for racism to happen on a less obvious scale.

I would like to leave my readers with this challenge that Rankine set for herself: to not be the person who can sit back and accept daily racism. If you are white: be cognizant of what you say. If you are a minority: don't accept any accidental—or worse, intentional—racism. Speak out, be loud, make that effect to someday shut down racist tendencies. Though amazing, one book of poems is not sufficient to do this on its own.

The Iowa Caucus is a waste of time

by Jonathan Kirshenbaum '19
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

Over a year after the start of *Democalypse 2016*—a term coined by the hilarious Jon Stewart—there is a celebrated event that is the proverbial starting gun of the American presidential elections: The Iowa Caucus. But amongst all the pomp and circumstance, one critical truth is often neglected: the Iowa caucuses are the antithesis of the representative and accessible democracy that Americans fiercely fought for and defended over the past two and a half centuries.

Even at its most basic level, the very procedures of caucusing seem backward. Proponents will laud the open, grassroots cosmopolitics where Iowa's engaged citizens join together to carry out the mantra of a government of, by, and for the people. However, the simple fact of the Iowa caucuses is that they inherently guarantee low voter turnout. In 2008—the previous "open election" when neither party had an incumbent candidate—the caucus's turnout of 350,000 was trumpeted as a record-breaking showing. But as Thomas Patterson of the Kennedy School of Government points out, this supposedly "earth-shattering" participation rate actually amounts to just 16.3 percent of the eligible electorate. In contrast, New Hampshire, the nation's first primary state, saw a combined voter turnout of 51.9 percent.

There's a reason for that. As a primary state, New Hampshire's polls are open all day. Voters can punch their ballet on their morning commute, on their way to pick up the kids from school or even after dinner. From start to finish the whole process takes no more than 30 minutes. In Iowa, you have to be at the caucus location, in person—on a usually freezing February night—at 6:30 p.m. in order to participate. If you are a parent, ER nurse, custodian or anyone who doesn't work a 9 to 5 job, you are effectively shut out of the process. Therefore, turnout is low because Iowans don't drop everything and run to the caucus centers the way that some media correspondents and party-leaders would make you believe. For most Americans, getting their work done or spending a night with the family is a more appealing way to spend an evening than letting their ears freeze off.

So why then, every year on the first week of February, do some 320 million pairs of eyes snap to their televisions when the caucuses start? Simple. Because they're first.

Regardless of its eventual consequences, the Iowa Caucus is the first official event in a long, drawn-out selection process that will last for the following nine months. After already a year of candidates' speculation and beating around the bush, Americans are anxiously chomping at the bit like a racehorse that has been kept at the starting gate for too long.

Okay, but as starting states go, what's so bad about Iowa? It is a state that enjoys a lofty literacy rate, exceptionally high voter turnout in general elections and is left relatively untouched by gerrymandered congressional districts.

But Iowa has a dirty little secret that champions of the caucus would like you to overlook: it's not really a state representative of "The Great American Melting Pot." According to census data, Iowa is 90.2 percent white, 3.2 percent black and 4.4 percent Hispanic (for comparison, that puts it in the top five whitest states in the republic). Democratic party official Joe Trippi notes that "After Iowa and New Hampshire, the Democratic primary race is an electorate that is 54 percent white and 46 percent minority," making a victory in Iowa and New Hampshire—or the hairline split between Sen. Sanders and Sec. Clinton that the caucuses produced—about as unreflective a measure of Democratic inclination as imaginable.

The same problem exists for the Republicans. Nearly 57 percent of GOP Iowans consider themselves Christians, higher than any other non-southern or border state. This at least partially explains why Mike Huckabee, an ordained minister, beat out Mitt Romney in 2008, and why Rick Santorum narrowly did the same thing in 2012, despite neither candidate having an inkling of national appeal.

But it's more than polarized demographics that prohibit caucuses from living under the banner of democracy. Every modern democracy has adopted "the secret ballot" in its popular voting processes, including the United States. After disastrously corrupt elections in the 1800s, the U.S. threw out the system that required voters to publicly display which candidate they supported. So how do the Democratic caucuses make sense when voters stand in groups depending on who they support?

If the questionable at best interpretation of democracy and ridiculous demographic representations aren't enough to jade your opinions of the caucuses, how about this: They don't make any sense. If you ask even the most senior Democratic official how many caucus votes Obama got in 2008, he won't be able to tell you. In fact, no one will be able to tell you, because Iowa Democrats don't count votes in their caucuses.

Hugh Winebrenner, a professor at Drake University, explains that the purpose of the Democratic caucus was never to conduct the sort of straw poll like the Republicans do. But when the caucuses became the measure for the first nominating event, they have to come up with some form of "results." That's why today, the Democrats deal in "state delegate equivalents" instead of actual votes.

Greenfield posits a situation where a hypothetical caucus is allocated eight delegates. Under current rules, the candidate with a threshold of 85 percent of that caucus' participants would get all eight delegates. So if 100 people show up, and 87 of them support Bernie Sanders, he'd get all the delegates. Fair enough, right? But if 500 people show up, and 499 of them are supporting him, the final results wouldn't change one bit; he still gets the same eight delegates. When you look at the most recent caucuses that were decided by some coin-flip brouhaha—that's another piece for another time—you can see just how faulted this system actually is.

As for the Republicans, there is a secret destructive truth that every GOP caucus winner must quietly acknowledge: The Iowa caucuses have never had any serious impact on the ultimate outcome of determining their nominee.

Whatever the final consequence of this election is, one thing will not change: the Iowa Caucuses will persist in their role as the first, fundamentally flawed stop on the presidential nominating trail. As Joe Biden remarked in 2007 after not caucusing as well as hoped, "This isn't a caucus—it's an industry."

Entering life on The Hill: The Jan experience

by Leigh Gelotte '19
OPINION CONTRIBUTOR

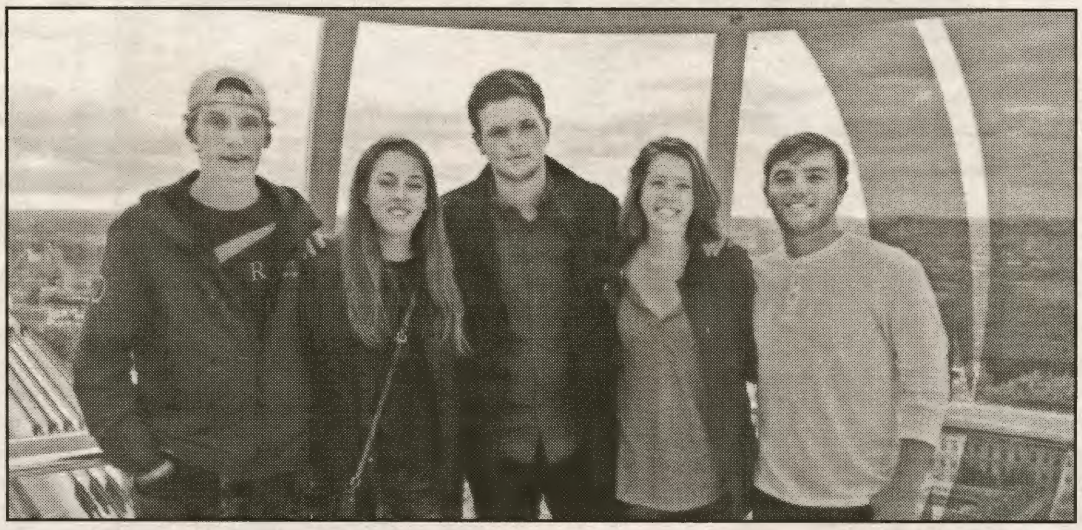

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEIGH GELOTTE '19

Gelotte '19 and Jan friends saw the city from atop the London Eye last fall.

I chose Hamilton for its distinctly welcoming community. When I first discovered Hamilton, I was struck by how the school was not just a place to learn, but also a place to grow. After my first visit to The Hill I knew it was where I wanted to go to college. My decision to attend was easy and quick, but my journey to Hamilton's campus was unlike the journeys of many of my classmates. I chose Hamilton over two years ago as a junior in high school and as one of the January Admits in the class of 2019, I have been waiting to arrive on campus for what feels like ages. It's been a long time coming, and now that I'm here it feels necessary to reflect on my recent transition.

I would be surprised if there were a single Hamilton student who would argue that they did not experience some difficulty in transitioning to college. Any transition is demanding and requires a fair amount of energy. Even so, I feel like many of the Jans would say we are particularly 'transitioned-out.'

I, along with 30 of the 33 January admit students, spent my first semester in London studying at Arcadia University, an American University affiliated with Hamilton College. Reflecting on the 'freshmen abroad' experience is the first notable ingredient of the transition to Hamilton. Moving to a foreign country was an unforgettable experience for an 18-year-old first-year who had never been away from home for more than two weeks at a time. It was quite the change. The difficulty involved in this experience bonded many of the Jans together, which allows us to act as each other's support system now that we are changing territory yet again.

The transitory quality of the Jan experience is what sets us apart from "regular" Hamilton College first-years. We enter second semester with strong connections to a small number of students. I've heard repeatedly that many Jans feel as though they are the new—and only—first-years at Hamilton. Despite the widespread welcoming and friendly atmosphere, it's difficult to avoid the feeling that the first-years who arrived in September are no longer at the bottom of the food chain. I see other first-years recognizing some of the struggles they might have had upon arrival in our experiences and jumping on the opportunity to recognize their own progress at navigating Hamilton life. Unfortunately, this also produces a sentiment that Jans are a group of outsiders. We were admitted in a different way, we are not versed in the social climate of the College, yet we are overly excited about finally being on campus (and Yik Yak doesn't fail to point that out).

Despite the initial struggle, the arrival of the Jans seems like the arrival of the freshman class. It is uncomfortable for both Jans and other students. It takes a while for Jans to be integrated into the community, but past Jans have explained that after a few weeks of friction it was like they had been here all along.

After discussing the transition with both upperclassmen and fellow Jans, it seems like both parties are equally overjoyed for the Jans to finally arrive on campus. However, I've observed that neither group realizes the extent of this mutual delight. It is akin to the classic pre-teen style crush.

I've overheard that the 'Jan Squad' can seem impenetrable because we travel in a pack. However, from our point of view, the sheer size of this community and the daunting task of making new friends makes traveling in groups a comfortable approach.

In the most obvious ways, there are a lot of aspects of Hamilton that are different than life in London or off campus. The academics here are much more challenging. The campus is an isolated environment that contrasts the experience of living in a city and commuting everywhere. The drinking age is 21 and the social scene is entirely different. In many ways, we were expected to be adults while abroad and now we are somewhat restricted by rules and boundaries. However, we no longer have extensive responsibilities such as cooking for ourselves and navigating a large cosmopolitan area. The size of the community at Hamilton is relieving and the support system available is enormous.

There have been huge changes in our lifestyle, but ultimately, arriving at Hamilton is what the Jans have been waiting for longer than any other first-years. We chose Hamilton and were sent on a very circuitous road to get here. Whether the community is excited to have us, annoyed by our lack of campus skills, or unaware of our presence at all, I—and most of the other 33 Jans—have been waiting to arrive on The Hill for a long time and the difficulty of the transition is dwarfed by the end of a long wait to be a part of the Hamilton family.

Thumbs Up	Thumbs Down	Who Cares?
Recycle Mania: Are you ready to crumble????	DU Want To Be My Valentine: DU want to be surrounded by sweaty footballers in Bundy?	I <3 College Bookstore Sweepstakes: Win a Hamilton sweatshirt and Asher Roth tickets.
Opus Weiner Stampede: Also the name for when the streakers run from the Science Center to List and back.	Going Downtown: It's become harder than making an entrance on a Republican debate stage.	Atheists wanted: by God!
Running Club Interest Meeting: But who is in charge of running the running club?	Point system 2.0: If it only takes 2 points to get expelled, it seems like everyone's going to stop smoking "cigarettes" outside Babbitt.	Gamma Masquerave: In which members of Gamma disguise themselves as other sororities.

by Jessye McGarry '16 and Carrie Solomon '16

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.

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...to write for *The Spectator*!

Email spec@hamilton.edu if you are interested.

Bachelor and Bachelorette

Jackson Herndon '17

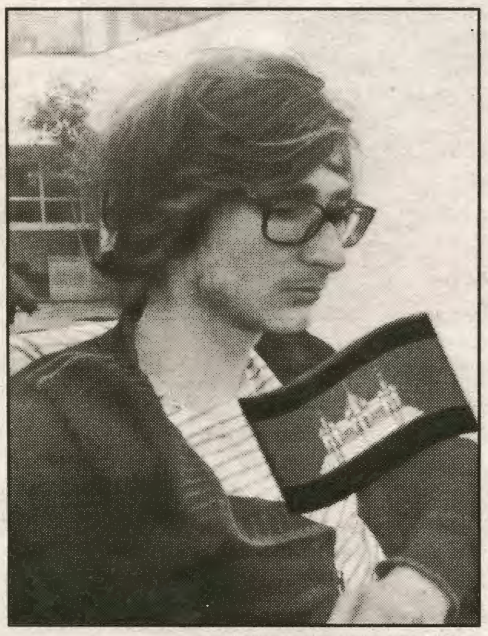


PHOTO COURTESY OF JACKSON HERNDON '17

Hometown: *NYC*
Home on Campus: *Babbitt.*
Major: *History.*
Turn On? *Vladimir Ilyich Lenin.*
Turn Off? *Self-esteem, neoliberalism.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Mac probably. That ceiling waffle graffiti is pretty great, and dark side for lyfe b****.*
Lights on or lights off? *I can't afford to be picky here man.*
If you had to describe yourself as the love child of any two musicians, whom would you pick and why? *Earl Sweatshirt and David Byrne.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *"There is a spectre haunting Europe, the spectre of communism."*
What TV genre best describes you? *Whatever adult swim is showing at 3 a.m.*
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *"Drinks on me."*
What's your type? *Alive, preferably.*
What are three things you cannot live without? *My music collection, my dog, cynicism.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *Bundy Dining Hall, I've been thrown up on far too often.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *The Glen is wildly underrated, even when it's cold it's still beautiful.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *WHCL, which I uh, already do.*
What's your patronus and why? *A really old but very amicable dog.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *Arson.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *Spending way too much time online.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Having to not be online.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Everyone who's ever held the KJ doors open for me when I had both hands full. HMU yo.*
What would your perfect date be? *Movie, dinner, establish a dictatorship of the proletariat.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *I bought a pretty old, half broken opium pipe in Vietnam. It's a pretty weird souvenir.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *That thing where it's the last week of finals and people come into KJ and start singing. Please do not.*

Hannah Mooney '17

PHOTO COURTESY OF HANNAH MOONEY '17

Hometown: *Piedmont, CA*
Home on Campus: *Farmhouse C.*
Major: *English.*
Turn On? *Sweatshirts. Actually.*
Turn Off? *Gum.*
If you were a dorm which would you be and why? *Farmhouse, because my floor also sags.*
Lights on or lights off? *On—can't read with the lights off.*
What advertising slogan best describes your life? *Frubes—"Rip their heads off and suck their guts out."*
What TV genre best describes you? *Couch shows—any and all series including couches, be it* Friends, The Big Comfy Couch, The People's Couch, Oprah, The Simpsons, *or* The Golden Girls.
What's the best pick-up line you've ever used/had used on you? *You're hotter than the bottom of my laptop.*
What's your type? Comic Sans.
What are three things you cannot live without? *Granola, fleece pants, the ocean.*
If you were any social space, what would it be? *HUBba hubba.*
Where do you go when you want to be alone? *Away from other people.*
If you could join one group on campus, what would it be? *Clown club.*
What's your patronus and why? *Toad, because I pee when I'm scared.*
If you could break one rule at Hamilton and get away with it, which would you choose? *I would travel by hoverboard.*
What would you give a thumbs up? *People who drink their morning coffee on the toilet.*
What would you give a thumbs down? *Losing a sock.*
Who would you say is your campus crush? *Blaire Ruth Byers.*
Who would you say is your faculty crush? *Angel Mason.*
What would your perfect date be? *May 1st.*
What is the weirdest thing currently in your room? *A box that used to hold my grandma's teeth.*
If you could remake the points system, what would be the number one offense? *Changing the toaster dials.*
If you were a food, which would you be and why? *Doritos, because I'm covered in cheesy powder. Or a sandy popsicle.*

PossePlus Retreat: talking about how we talk

by Sophie Gaulkin '17
Features Editor

This past weekend from Feb. 5-7, more than 5,000 college students at 50 colleges and universities from all over the country participated in a dialogue about a pressing issue that affects personal lives, college campuses, and the nation as a whole at the annual PossePlus Retreat (PPR). In the fall, Posse Scholars across the U.S. voted for the topic, "Sticks + Stones: Language and Speech in a Diverse Society."

The 80 Posse Scholars at Hamilton from the Boston and the Miami area constitute a significant portion of the campus. Posse is one of the most renowned college access and youth leadership development programs in the nation, lauded by education researchers across the world and even President Barack Obama, who said, "[Posse Scholars] end up graduating from selective colleges with a very high success rate." Posse was founded in 1989 because of one student's statement: "I never would have dropped out of college if I had my posse with me." Since then, the program has been identifying public high school students "with extraordinary academic and leadership potential who may be overlooked by traditional college selection processes." Posse places these students, who go through an intense selection process, in supportive, multicultural teams, or "Posses," of exactly 10 students and award four-year, full-tuition leadership scholarships. Posse is now a national initiative with chapters in Atlanta, the Bay Area, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Washington, D.C., Boston and Miami. Its partner institutions have selected nearly 7,000 Scholars and awarded almost 1 billion dollars for their undergraduate education. Posse Scholars graduate at a rate of 90 percent, which is well above the national average.

The reason for this model's success may be that a small, diverse group of highly motivated students, "carefully selected and trained," can act as an inspiration for personal and community development. Since the U.S. is becoming a more and more multicultural society, The Posse Foundation believes "that the leaders of this new century should reflect the country's rich demographic mix and that the key to a promising future for our nation rests on the ability of strong leaders from diverse backgrounds to develop consensus solutions to complex social problems."

While the debate over political correctness has been going on for a while, the conversation at PPR went deeper into controversial aspects of language. Questions included, "Who is allowed to say what? What about free speech? Can speech be a form of violence? Have you ever said something and immediately wished you could take it back? Have you ever been told something that you wish people weren't allowed to say? How do we want to define the terms of our conversations on campus and beyond?"

Other subtopics included the merit of trigger warnings (statements that precede soon-to-be presented material for the purpose of informing the audience that it contains potentially distressing content) for course material that could cause an upsetting emotional response, microaggressions (the quotidien verbal, nonverbal or environmental slights that communicate derogatory or hurtful messages to individuals based solely upon aspects of their identity such as race, gender or religion) and the idea of coddling.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANNY HOFFMAN OF THE POSSE FOUNDATION
Attendees discussed the coded meanings of offensive terms.

Every year, The Posse Foundation and Posse Scholars facilitate PPR, which allows members of the larger campus community, such as faculty, administration and students, to attend and to discuss critical issues, generally relevant to college campuses, that are chosen by Posse Scholars themselves. The presence of different social and cultural perspectives represents a cross section of campus culture and relevant voices who work together to make a positive difference. It is a weekend of interactive, personal and challenging workshops with the goal of tackling these issues through discussion and hopefully concrete plans. PPR was started by the first group of Posse Scholars at Vanderbilt University who decided that something needed to be done "that would create a positive impact for the campus community." Since then, retreats have focused on themes of race, class, gender, power, social responsibility, education and advocacy, to name a few broad examples.

One of the unique aspects of this retreat is its fundamental idea of a safe space. "By creating a safe space for dialogue between campus community members who may not ordinarily interact with one another," The Posse Foundation explains, "retreats today have become an important forum to engage in social, cultural and political issues.

The weekend-long retreat had generally good reviews. David Dacres '18, a Miami Posse Scholar, stated, "PossePlus Retreat was really good this year. I felt as though we talked about things that are rarely spoken about which made it quite difficult but interesting."

Reece Thompson '18, an invited guest, agreed: "I felt like it was a really great forum to talk about issues that are only going to become more important going forward. I think we all need a solid understanding of how language functions and what effects it can have on the world around us. I had some amazing conversations about art and trigger warnings, safe spaces and identity construction that have fundamentally changed my views on these issues."

What concrete changes will be made on campus remains unclear, although the conversation has showed no signs of slowing down after the approximately 150 participants at Hamilton's PPR returned to campus.

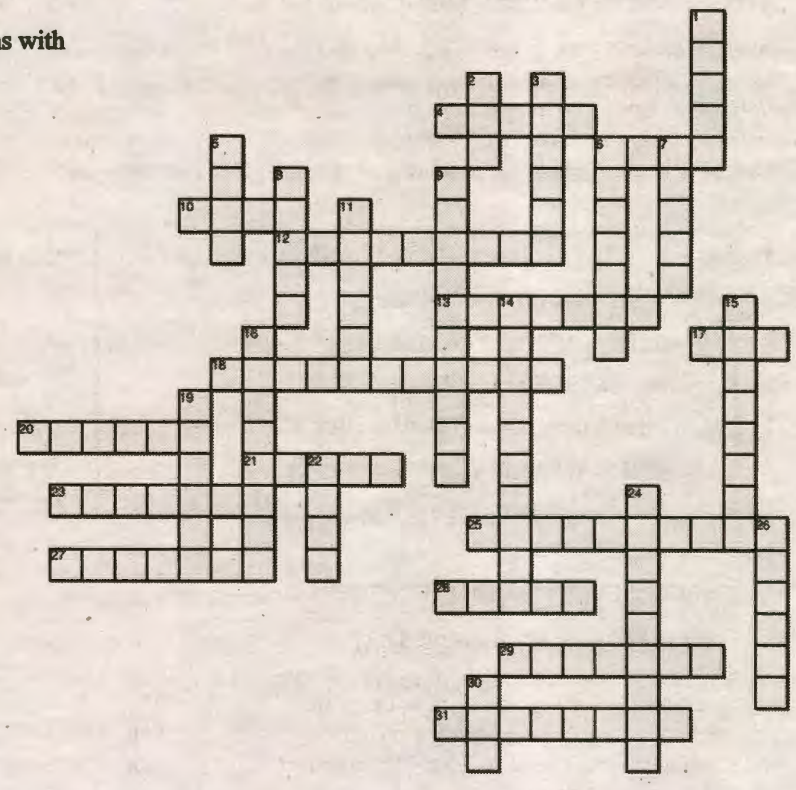
Chocolate, red roses, jewelry....crosswords—all things that are commonly associated with Valentine's Day, Hallmark's day of love and cheesy cards. Whether you have a hot date, a GALentine's wine and romcom night or a Single's Awareness Day chocolate feast prepared, try your hand at this week's crossword and learn some history and fun facts about February 14th! And remember, no one can ever love you as much as you'll love yourself after solving this tricky puzzle.

by Ian Antonoff '16 and Amelia Heller '16
Features Contributors

Across:
4. Top condom sales company
6. X
10. Saint Valentine of ____.
12. Go-To VDay present
13. Percent of women that send themselves flowers on VDay
17. Over 50% of VDay cards are purchased___days before the Holiday
18. Deborah Koons married this famous rocker on Feb. 14, 1994
20. What happens to your pupils when you look at someone attractive
21. Most common symbol of romance
23. Falling in love has neurological effects similar to those of:
25. "butterflies" are caused by:
27. Go-To VDay present
28. Origin of wearing one's wedding ring on the fourth finger of the left hand
29. Inventor of the VDay candy box in the late 1800s
31. Greeting card company most commonly associated with VDay

Down:
1. Red Rose symbolizes this Roman goddess
2. O
3. "love" is derived from the Sanskrit word "lubhyati," which means:
5. Cupid's greek name
6. male lead in *Valentine's Day* (2010)
7. Musician who made her film debut in *Valentine's Day* (2010)
8. Company that produces conversation hearts
9. State that produces the majority of America's roses
11. Often written for/on Valentine's Day
14. February 14 in Finland?
15. "Ie Ovele Ouye" means "I love you" in what language
16. Population group that receives the most VDay cards
19. Message written on a heart candy
22. Female lead in *Valentine's Day* (2010)
24. Oldest sex manual in existence
26. King Henry the___that declared Valentine's Day an official holiday in 1537
30. Every Kiss begins with

Valentine's Day
Complete the crossword below



Last Week's Answers:
Across: 1. Colbert 3. four 5. dolphins 7. Patriots 15. WalterCamp 16. JerryRice 18. Cowboys 19. dab 20. eleven 22. twentyfive 23. wings 25. wilson 26. Seahawks 28. fortythree 29. Broncos 30. cbs
Down: 1. Coldplay 2. Dorito 4. Pizza 6. Panthers 8. thirtytwo 9. budlight 10. Guacamole 11. Packers 12. Thanksgiving 13. Papajohns 14. seventytwo 17. MattStover 21. Lombardi 24. thirty 26. Steelers 27. Levis 28. four

Sex and the Campus

Love yourself this Valentine's Day

by Kate Cieplicki '16
Features Writer

Valentine's Day is a tough day to be single, so I've crafted a fool-proof way to not only survive, but thrive this Sunday if your love life is less than popping.

Stay away from social media
Spare yourself the self-hatred and hatred of humanity that often comes from seeing mushy gushy photo collages of couples doing couple-y things while you chill alone in your room listening to "Secondhand Serenade." If ever there was a day to take a break from social media, this is the day. Instead…

Host a single friends only hang
Just because you're not dating someone doesn't mean you have to be alone on Valentine's Day. Get a bunch of single friends together (this is a time for solidarity). You can order take-out if you don't feel like braving the throngs of couples enjoying candle lit dinners. Or you can go to restaurants and mock them from neighboring tables. Alcohol, hot cider, or other cozy beverages are a must for such a gathering, so go all out. Take this time to reflect on all the great things about being single: no one relying on you and plenty of free time for self-reflection. Then spend the rest of your time bashing your exes with the help of Voodoo dolls, old love letters and an open flame. You definitely dodged a bullet there. End the night with the antithesis of Valentine's Day: a fun, violent movie with minimal plot and even less romance. Bonus points if two lovers' distracted displays of affection somehow get them killed. Serves them right.

Send yourself a Buffergram
Way better than sending yourself flowers: this is the Valentine's Day gift that keeps on giving. Not only will the singing Buffers make you feel desirable, everyone witnessing the Buffergram will see you as more desirable! Practice your look of coy surprise in the mirror to maximize the effect.

Masturbate in an academic building
Everyone likes to boast about the crazy sex they had on the third floor of the library that one time during finals week (yeah right) but you don't need a consistent hook-up to join in on the fun. Scope out a hidden spot on campus where it is unlikely that you will be caught and go for it ;)! The next time a party conversation turns to sex in public you'll have your own wild (and slightly concerning) sexual exploit to share.

Buy a fish
Even if you take all of this advice, this time of year may still have you feeling a little lonely and in need of someone to nurture and spend time with. Head over to Petsmart to fill that need in a healthy Res-Life friendly way that can't give you an STD: get a fish! Give him a real person name like Steven or Susan and suddenly you're practically one of your hooking-up, relationship-savvy pals. For example, you can tell acquaintances: "I'm pretty worried, Steven doesn't say much and I'm not sure where we stand" to contribute to conversations about ghosting by hook-ups. Steven will keep you company as you watch Netflix alone late on Sunday nights and he'll listen to your worries and dreams without judgment (or any facial reaction whatsoever). He may even share some of your Tito's (don't overdo this one). Building a relationship with a fish is also great practice for the romantic relationship that is surely in your future. When Steven dies sometime this April it will be an important lesson in letting go and moving on to other fish in the sea.

Relationships can be fun and fulfilling, but only if you want one and you're in one with the right person. If being in a relationship isn't for you or hasn't happened for you by Valentine's Day, spend some time with a cool, smart and funny person: yourself! After all, love interests (and pet fish) will come and go but the relationship that you have with yourself is forever.

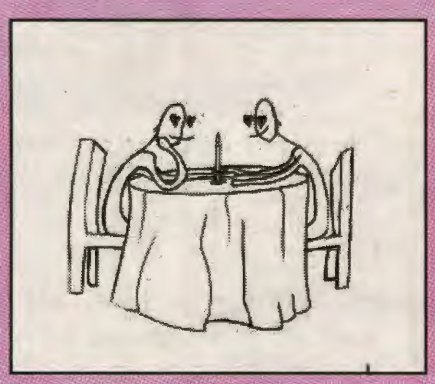
A Guy's Guide to Valentine's Day

by Nathan Arndt '16
Features Contributor

If you have a girlfriend, significant other, partner, boyfriend, mistress, regular hook up or other romantic entanglement, there are a few things you need to know to be as prepared as possible for this weekend. The first is that Valentine's Day is Sunday, Feb. 14. The second is that yes, that is this Sunday. Now your significant other (SO) has probably spent the last 11 months fantasizing about everything romantic you could possibly do and of course nothing you can do with your limited budget and creativity can possibly live up to the hype. Then are you screwed? Perhaps, but you have one thing on your side—your SO is already expecting you to let them down, so even if you only sort of pull through for them you may survive. Here a few date and gift ideas to get you started. Remember to paraphrase because your SO probably also read this article today and will definitely report you to the honor court if he/she gets one of these gifts or dates word for word without proper citation.

The Dinner Date

Take a look on Yelp and find a nice restaurant to take your SO to for dinner. It lacks creativity, but everyone is happy when they are eating and it's a great way to say I love you at least this $$$$ much. Actually 4 dollar signs is a lot, maybe best to filter by 3 or less.



The Home-Cooked Meal

Cook your SO something special in your common room and then surprise him/her with it in your room. We recommend steak as a good combination of fancy and easy to cook on a stove. A nice bottle of wine and some flowers are a great way to distract from any lack of cooking skills. This has many of the same perks as the dinner date but keeps costs down and seems a little more personal.

The Flower Bed

Decorate your bedroom with flower petals and light it with candles. Your SO will love the romantic gesture. Fake candles may be better since they won't burn you, set your hair or sheets on fire or result in points.

The Mail-Ordered Jewelry

The internet is a great place to look for jewelry. If you need fast shipping, which at this point you do, Amazon is one of the best places to look and they have a large selection of jewelry and watches that will make it look like you spent a lot more then you actually did.

The Sexy Lingerie

A fun gift that you can both enjoy. Lingerie is a great way to remind your partner how attractive you find them—just remember that they don't want the sexy nurse corset. Picking an item based on customer reviews is probably best because, let's be honest, you have weird taste in lingerie.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHARLOTTE SIMONS '16

The Box of Chocolates

Chocolate is delicious and relatively inexpensive. No matter what else you do you should probably also get your SO some of this. Remember you can never do too much but you can definitely do too little.

Spanish Film Club's series kicks off with *Bad Hair (Pelo Malo)*

by Kyandreia Jones '19
Staff Writer

Last Tuesday, February 2, the Hispanic Studies Department showed *Pelo Malo* (2013). The film was the first screening for their film series celebrating "the new wave of Ibero American Cinema." The event began with an introduction from Professor Luisa Briones-Manzano. Next, Phyllis Breland, who attended the event as part of a collaboration with the Days-Massolo Center, gave a personal account regarding the idea of "good hair."

Breland expressed her connection with the debate of "good hair" and "bad hair" upon which the film touched. "Bad Hair," Breland said, "resonates because I can understand how people define themselves through hair."

Discussing her biracial background and how hair "defined who [she] was," Breland learned early "what it symbolized." As a child, Breland recalls,"I put a long towel over my head and I would sit in the mirror and flip my long luxurious blonde hair."

However, Breland did not limit her hair idea to that of Disney Princesses. Describing how during a time of black power she was defined by the size of her afro, Breland divulged. "I wanted to talk about myself instead of my hair." Thus her " outter blackness became inside." For this reason, Breland mentioned, she shaved her head.

After using her experience as a segue into the film, Breland left the crowd with this final question: "What kind of assumption does one make by looking at your hair?"

Pelo Malo (*Bad Hair*) provided an answer to Breland's question.

The film is about a young boy, Junior (Samuel Lange Zambrano), who lived with his single mother, Marta (Samantha Castillo) and his baby brother. Junior comes from a mixed heritage—a Venezuelan mother and a father with an African background. His father died due to an undisclosed gang-related incident. Junior's hair demonstrates his role as a member two worlds.

Junior's hair is an essential aspect of his identity. He is fascinated with his mom's and jealous of his baby brother's straight hair. His paternal grandmother, Carmen, seems well intended and like an ally at first. At one point Carmen said to Junior, "I got a surprise for you," to which he exclaimed, "a hair dryer?" However, as the film continues, it becomes clear that she exploits Junior's desire for straight hair because she seeks the son she lost (Junior's deceased father) in Junior. At several points in the film Carmen offers to take Junior off of Marta's hands but with this warning: "He'll be mine."

The harsh realities of the characters' environment are shown through the children. One such reality is a scene in which Junior and his best friend La Niña (María Emilia Sulbarán) are playing in Junior's room. As Junior plays with his toy soldiers, the sound of gunshots can be heard. Because Junior incorporates the sound into his playing, it does not seem like they're in a hostile situation. However, as the camera pans to Junior's baby brother bouncing in his crib, Junior's next words—"Don't get up, baby, somebody's shooting"— demonstrate a harsher truth.

In another instance, La Niña tells Junior that they "[a playground] have to get out of here," because her mom told her "people get raped here." During this conversation, Junior tells La Niña,"you have to be good- looking to be raped." The children tackle a conversation that's sensitive even for adults in a place of innocence.This picture creates discomfort for the audience but also serves a greater purpose than if two adults had been having the conversation.

In a moving scene relating to Junior's hair, Junior yells at La Niña, "I'll go as a singer with my straight hair!" when they speak about their costumes for their school photos. In response, his best friend (who wanted to dress up as a beauty queen for the photos) says, "To make your mom love you."

In this case, La Niña taps into a very important detail of Junior's life. Junior craved his mother's affection which she did not give to him. Marta's emotional distance from him creates Junior's disdain for his baby brother, who constantly receives their mother's love and admiration. Not only does La Niña's statement accurately voice one of Junior's secrets, it serves as a basis for the decision Junior makes at the end of the film.

Throughout the film, Junior's obsession with straight hair puts a strain on his relationship with his mother, who is a very complicated character. Viewers have a hard time deciding whether or not to hate her. Marta does not accept that her son is different. She goes as far as to take him to the doctor to figure out what's wrong with him. She believes her son is gay, and this belief seems to trump her basic instincts as a mother. Instead of welcoming her son, she confronts him with malice.

Often in the film, the two characters glare at one another with an obvious hatred. But a large part of Marta's contempt seems to stem from a conflict within herself. She experiences a discomfort because she, a single mother, has a son whom she does not fully understand. This truth battles with her instinct to be a good mother.

At the doctor's office, Marta asks the physician, "He's going to suffer, right?" This begs the question that Marta's attitude toward her son has been tough love, that she hurts him and denies parts of his identity because she believes accepting that he's different means for her child to suffer.

Desperate for a remedy, Martha asks the doctor if she should cut Junior's hair (a key part of his identity) to cure him of his "peculiar" behavior. However, the doctor advises her to show Junior a father figure. The aforementioned advice provides context for why, when Marta's future boss came to her house, she tells Junior not to close the bedroom door when she and her boss have sex.

However, it is hard to hate Marta because she seems to be attempting to do what she believes a mother must do for her child. Granted, the way in which she goes about her "motherly duties" is twisted, cruel and misguided.

One of the most moving scenes was the split hair scene. Junior's grandmother Carmen had straightened half of his head. Upon Marta returning to collect Junior from his grandmother's house, Junior is instructed to wet the straightened side of his head to make it curly again. Before wetting his hair, Junior studies himself in the mirror. When he turns his head so he can only see the curly side, his face twisted in displeasure. Then he turned his head so he could only see the straight side, at which point his face beams. The image shows that obtaining "good hair" means finally having happiness for young Junior. Never did he smile as fully as when his hair was straight.

In contrast to the split hair scene, the scene where Marta forces Junior to cut his hair is painful for the audience to watch. Knowing Junior's hair was an important aspect of his identity, the act seems cruel and torturous. However, the fact that Junior says, "I don't love you" to his mother for making him deny a crucial part of himself was even harder to grasp. Further, Marta's reply "Neither do I" applies a whole other element of harshness, especially given that the two character's never dropped the other's gaze as the moment transpires.

The film ends with Junior standing among other children. They appear to be outside their school singing their national anthem. All the other children sing but Junior does not sing, for he no longer had anything that make him happy.

Left with this final picture, besides a feeling of great sadness, I felt an impossible rage. I was so angry that Junior was forced to become someone he was not for his mother's sake. The fact that he is a child makes it even more upsetting when his face is stoic. Smiles are so precious among children. Junior's smile was stolen as anyone's would be if they had sacrificed an integral part of themselves. *Pelo Malo* did not deliver a happy ending. Instead, watchers were left with a haunting image of a defeated nine-year-old boy. It is because of the final image, and the film in its entirety, that I believe *Pelo Malo* was the kind of film viewers could not help but carry home with them.

THE SPANISH FILM CLUB SERIES WAS MADE POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT OF PRAGDA, SPAIN ARTS & CULTURE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR CULTURE OF SPAIN.

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Choir does musical theater legend justice with energetic performance of *Sondheim on Sondheim*

by Jake Altman-Desole '19
Staff Writer

This weekend the Hamilton College Choir delivered a vibrant tribute to musical theatre legend Stephen Sondheim. The piece, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, is a melange of performances highlighting Sondheim's greatest hits with interview snippets projected onto a screen above the performers. Performances of Sondheim's musical numbers were distributed among the interview footage, forming an exciting give-and-take of Sondheim's own words with his stellar compositions.

The musical begins with Sondheim's own recollection of his often lonely childhood and his initial forays into music. The audience enjoyed seeing live performances of some of his earliest songs, many of which never reached Broadway or achieved great popularity. It deeply humbled yet encouraged the audience to actually see the early flops of a musical genius, followed by his persistence how until he succeeded. The Choir deserves credit for bringing humor and life into Sondheim's juvenile show tunes such as "I'll Meet You at the Donut" and others. The show proceeded into Sondheim's early career, from composing the lyrics to "West Side Story" to writing the music and lyrics for the pioneering 1970s show *Company*. The students performed two to three songs from each show, and every performance was skillful and energetic. Perhaps it helped the students to perform only a few songs from each show, allowing them to focus solely on performing chosen songs as opposed to storyline and dialogue. Whatever the reason, the Choir brought a very pleasing energy to scenes.

The show continued with more interview clips and live performances from Sondheim's later hits, which soloists, pairs, trios, octets and occasionally the whole ensemble performed. The entire piece, from the choreography to the orchestra to the singing itself, ran like a machine. The countless hours spent rehearsing and directing were evident. The enthusiasm of the choristers keeps the audience engaged and enthralled by the story of an American icon. The choreography and acting aptitude of the performers especially impressed me. One does not expect a choir performance to feel like a musical, yet *Sondheim on Sondheim* was such an experience. Various soloists were featured; no single singer dominated the entire performance. The ensemble clearly had enough talented singers to share the spotlight for the entire lengthy program. The virtuosity of the Choir was on full display for both halves of the program, and the Choir only strengthened its reputation, with *Sondheim on Sondheim*, as one of the best musical groups on campus. For fans of Sondheim, the piece was a thrilling ride down memory lane. For those new to Sondheim or musical theatre, *Sondheim on Sondheim* perfectly introduced Broadway standards while serving as an American musical history lesson. With this weekend's performances, the Choir continues to uphold the sophistication and diversity of Hamilton's relatively small yet illustrious music scene.

PHOTO BY OLIVIA FULLER '19

Hamilton College Choir paid enthusiastic tribute to musical theater legend Sondheim.

Looking for a creative way to procrastinate? Try streaming Netflix documentaries!

by Matt Burner '17
Staff Writer

With college students' busy schedules, free time is one of the most cherished luxuries. Whether it is on a homework-free Tuesday night or low-key Sunday afternoon, breaks from the college grind are always welcomed. One of students' favorite diversions is watching one of the many popular video-streaming websites such as Netflix and Hulu. Covering a wide swath of genres, these services are often able to entertain the pickiest of viewers. One of Netflix's most comprehensive categories is "Documentary," where one can view many incredibly high quality films. Following are a few particularly worth watching.

Best of Enemies: Released in 2015, *Best of Enemies* is a captivating glimpse into the televised debates between Gore Vidal and William Buckley during the 1968 Republican and Democratic conventions. The film tells the story of how ABC News, at the time a struggling news organization, generated the idea of pitting two controversial and highly intelligent rivals against each other in a series of debates. As the film progresses, one not only sees how the debates changed the course of American political television coverage but also the ego and mindset of the two men the film profiles. The climax of the film shows one of the most controversial live events to occur on television at the time and the subsequent effect it had on everyone involved.

In this time of political hot-takes and media partisanship, *Best of Enemies* is a refreshing and at times humorous look at a recent period of American political culture. The film advances quickly and at the end, leaves the viewer both better informed and almost longing for past political climates.

PHOTO BY FANNY SCHERTZER, LISENCED UNDER CC 2.0 ATTRIBUTION

***Virunga* follows the fight to protect mountain gorrilas in the Congo.**

Cartel Land: Another film released in 2015, *Cartel Land* is one of five films nominated for best documentary feature at this year's Academy Awards. Filmed on both sides of the border during the ongoing Mexican Drug War, *Cartel Land* is an unflinching look at two vigilante groups and their personal fight with the drug cartels.

On the Mexican side of the border, the documentary follows the Autodefensas group and their leader, José Mireles. Operating out of Michoacán, the Autodefensas strive to liberate towns living under the brutal and terrifying oppression of the Knight Templar Cartel. As the film progresses, questions regarding the loyalty of some Autodefensas members and the interests of the local government arise.

On the American side, the film provides a glimpse into the lives and thoughts of members of Arizona Border Recon, focusing especially on leader Tim Foley. Foley leads the group on a mission to prevent illegal immigrants from crossing into the U.S.

Possessing a story as intense and riveting as any fictional thriller, *Cartel Land* moves at a frantic pace. The director expertly crafts a clear illustration of both group's ideologies, which allows the viewer to make their own judgment on each group and the War on Drugs itself.

Virunga: One of the most impactful of all documentaries on Netflix, *Virunga* tells the tale of the rangers who work tirelessly in the Congo's Virunga National Park to protect the highly endangered mountain gorillas. While filming started with the aim of chronicling the battle between the rangers and local poachers, the film quickly shifts to a much more geopolitical context once a global oil exploration company and Congan rebels become involved.

While *Virunga* doesn't paint a cheerful picture, it relates an important and underreported struggle. The film questions Western countries' relationship to both the Congo's economy and natural environment and where some interests actually lie. While the film becomes somewhat convoluted, it manages to maintain focus on its important initial theme of the rangers and their relationship with the gorillas.

Three of these are particularly good, but Netflix has many other high-quality documentaries worth viewing.

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NESCAC Playoff Watch

PHOTO BY ZACH BATSON '16

PHOTO BY MIKE VEROSTEK '16

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Place	School	Conf.	Overall
1	Middlebury	9-0-3	13-4-3
2	Amherst	9-1-2	16-1-3
3	Williams	8-6-0	12-8-0
4	Conn College	6-5-1	12-7-1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
6	Bowdoin	5-6-1	8-9-2
7	Trinity	4-7-1	11-8-1
8	Colby	3-10-1	5-13-3
9	Wesleyan	1-10-1	4-14-1

Women's Hockey

Following consecutive home losses to Williams, the Continentals earned an important road split against Bowdoin, one of their primary competitors for home-ice advantage in the first round of the NESCAC playoffs. Hamilton rebounded from a 2-0 loss to the Polar Bears on Feb. 5 to earn a 4-1 win the next day. Hamilton had not won a conference game since Jan. 23 before beating Bowdoin, when they finished a weekend sweep of last-place Wesleyan. The Continentals have another road doubleheader at Amherst this weekend before finishing with a home double against Conn College, who they trail by a half-game for home-ice advantage in the first round.

Place	School	Conf.	Overall
1	Williams	11-2-1	15-4-1
2	Trinity	11-3-0	15-4-1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
4	Middlebury	5-3-6	6-8-6
5	Bowdoin	6-5-3	10-7-3
6	Amherst	5-6-3	7-9-4
7	Tufts	4-6-4	8-7-5
8	Wesleyan	2-5-7	2-10-8
9	Colby	4-8-2	7-9-4
10	Conn College	0-12-2	3-15-2

Men's Hockey

Since a nine-game unbeaten streak which saw Hamilton enter the top-15 Division III hockey rankings for the first time, the Continentals have stumbled, losing three of their past four games. The Continentals dropped both games on their home stand, falling to Colby in overtime and getting blown out by Bowdoin, 6-2. The four-goal loss matched the team's worst loss of the season, when they lost 4-0 at third-ranked Trinity. However, Hamilton has remained in third place during that skid, and still sits two games ahead of fourth-place Middlebury. The Continentals have two upcoming home games against cellar-dwelling Conn College (Feb. 13) and Tufts (Feb. 14), before closing out the regular season with trips to Middlebury and Williams.

Place	School	Conf.	Overall
1	Trinity	7-1	16-6
T-2	Amherst	6-2	18-4
T-2	Middlebury	6-2	14-8
4	Tufts	6-3	18-5
5	Wesleyan	5-3	18-4
6	Williams	4-4	14-8
7	Conn College	3-5	12-10
T-8	Bowdoin	2-6	10-10
T-8	Colby	2-6	14-8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
11	Bates	2-7	10-13

Men's Basketball

The Continentals appeared to be out of the playoff race following an 0-5 start to NESCAC play, but have since moved into a tie for the last two playoff spots with two wins in their past three conference games. Hamilton earned home wins over Middlebury and Bowdoin before a critical overtime loss against fellow playoff bubble team Colby. Beating the 1-6 Mules would have tied the Continentals with Conn College for seventh place and potentially afforded them breathing room on their season-ending road trip. The Continentals must now beat one of the conference's top two teams, Trinity and Amherst, on the road to qualify for the postseason.

Continentals' Three Stars

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Olivia Hawes '19, Women's Ice Hockey

On Feb. 5, the Continentals had lost three of their past four games and fallen behind 1-0 in the second leg of a back-to-back weekend at Bowdoin. However, the first-year forward Hawes gave Hamilton a much-needed boost, scoring both the game-tying and game-winning goals in the Continentals' 4-1 win. Hawes put away a rebound to tie the game late in the first period, then cleaned up a shot from Hannah Bartlett '16 to put Hamilton ahead for good. Hawes now has three multi-goal games on the season.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE DOHERTY

Sarah Hooper '16, Women's Swimming and Diving

On Senior Day, Hooper shined in her signature events, winning both the 50- and 100-meter freestyle races. Her winning time was 24.86 seconds in the 50 free and 54.01 seconds in the 100 free; additionally, she was also part of the winning 400 free relay team which included Lauren Klei '18, Hannah Mooney '17 and Emma Raynor '18.

PHOTO BY MIKE VEROSTEK '16

Rafiatou Ouro-Aguy '18, Women's Squash

Playing from the third position, Ouro-Aguy earned two wins at the NESCAC Championships held at Trinity College. She beat Aaliyah Davidson of Connecticut College (12-10, 11-8, 11-1) in the first round, then defeated Katie Bull of Bates (9-11, 11-5, 11-6, 4-11, 11-7) in the first consolation round. Ouro-Aguy was the only Continentals player from the top six positions to win multiple matches during the tournament.

M. basketball in three-way tie for 7th

	1	2	OT	T
Colby	30	50	19	99
Hamilton	38	42	15	95
> Groll (HAM): 18 pts., 10 reb., 3 blks.				

*from **Basketball** page 16*

what of a rebuilding season with two-thirds of the roster comprised of underclassmen, a late playoff berth would be a reward for a team that has shown drastic improvement over the course of the past few months.

The road to a playoff berth, however, will not be easy. On Friday, Feb. 12, the Continentals will travel to Hartford, Connecticut to take on a Trinity team that has lost only one conference game this season. Trinity has one of the best defenses in the NESCAC, limiting opponents to just 65.8 points per game while holding opposing teams to shooting just 37.5 percent from the field. Immediately after the game against Trinity, the Continentals will travel to Amherst to play the Lord Jeffs on Feb. 13. Amherst is currently the second best team in the NESCAC, with a 6-2 conference record and a NESCAC best 18-4 overall record.

In order to compete for a playoff spot, the Continentals must complete at least one massive upset this weekend, and securing a spot may require a monumental double-header against two top-class opponents. The Continentals will look to continue their impressive late-season run for an opportunity at postseason glory.

PHOTO BY SINDY CHEN '19

Santos '16 led the Continentals in scoring against Bowdoin.

M. hockey begins final home stand

*from **Hockey**, page 16*

net goal late in the period.

Buitenhuis stopped 29 shots for Hamilton against Bowdoin, who have dropped three of four since recording an 11-game unbeaten streak. He has now dropped down to second-place in NESCAC goaltender statistics for save percentage, from .957 to .950.

Hamilton men's hockey has also dropped from second- to third-place rankings in NESCAC team statistics in scoring offense, and power play efficacy.

Head coach Robert Haberbusch acknowledged the team's mistakes in the weekend's match-ups, such as unclaimed, unchallenged rebounds around the opponents' nets. "We had chances to win each game but we didn't pounce. If we finish some of those opportunities early on it could have dramatically changed the course of the game," he said.

Yet, the 0-2 weekend hardly puts as drastic of a dent in the men's season as the weekend's sorry losses might suggest. The Continentals remain ranked 15th in the nation by both D3hockey.com and USCHO.com.

Lovejoy remains realistic, level headed and focused on the team's goals, despite what could be perceived as a demoralizing weekend for the previously undefeated squad. "We've put together some great wins this season where we've been rewarded for our hard work, but not every game will go your way," he said. "We think the adversity of a couple losses will make us a stronger team in the long run, and we're looking forward to getting back on track this weekend."

The weekend's trials might have been humbling, but the upcoming matches will hardly require a significant rebound. All in all, only a few areas—those on the breakout in the defensive zone and neutral zone, according to Haberbusch—require greater attention, execution and due diligence. In terms of game plan and dynamics, the coach maintained that while the team is "always trying to get better," they "have no drastic changes planned."

"For the most part we're sticking to what got us here," he said. "At this time of year, you are what you are, and fortunately for us we like what we are."

This weekend, Hamilton hosts the team's final home games of the regular season against Connecticut College (0-12-2 NESCAC; #10) and Tufts (4-6-4 NESCAC; #7). The competition begins Saturday night against the Camels at 7 p.m.

H SPECTATOR SPORTS
February 11, 2016

M. basketball needs impressive weekend to earn NESCAC playoff bid

	1	2	T
Bowdoin	33	38	71
Hamilton	39	47	86
> Santos (HAM): 25 pts., 7 reb., 11-18 FGM-A			

by Patrick Malin '18
Sports Editor

The Hamilton men's basketball team enters the final weekend of the regular season with a chance to earn a NESCAC playoff spot after failing to reach the playoffs last season. The Continentals look to pick up two victories against conference opponents to close out a season in which conference victories have been at a premium.

The team tallied an important victory at home against Bowdoin in a game delayed by weather on Saturday Feb. 6. In an evenly matched NESCAC contest, Hamilton's defense limited the top scorer in the NESCAC, Lucas Hausman '16, to just 18 points, well below his season average of 25.4 points.

Senior leader, Ajani Santos, scored a season-high 25 points on 11-18 shooting, and was a perfect 3-3 from the free-throw line. Starting point guard Jack Dwyer '18 led the team with eight assists and added 12 points of his own. Andrew Groll '19 stuffed the stat sheet against Bowdoin, scoring 10 points and collecting 10 rebounds for his sixth double-double of the season. Groll also added three steals, three blocks and two assists in the all-around dominant performance.

The following day, the Continentals took on the Colby Mules in a well-contested game that required an overtime period to decide a winner. Groll dominated in the first half, leading Hamilton in scoring with 12 points and rebounding with five boards. Hamilton carried an eight-point lead into halftime, but Colby stormed back in the second half to take the game down to the wire. Dwyer drained a jumpshot with 15 seconds left in regulation to give Hamilton a four-point lead, but Colby's center, Chris Hudnut '16, made a three-pointer on the next possession to bring the game within one. Peter Hoffmann '19 was fouled immediately on the inbounds pass and was one for one from the line, leaving the door open for the Mules on the final possession. Colby forward Ryan Jann '16 was fouled on a three-point attempt with one second left in the game, but missed his third free-throw and a chance to down the Continentals in regulation, sending the game to overtime knotted up 80-80.

The Continentals were outscored in overtime 19-15, dropping a crucial NESCAC game that would have put them in playoff position by a final score of 99-95. Michael Grassey '19 finished the game as Hamilton's leading scorer with 23 points; Dwyer added seven assists to increase his NESCAC leading assists average to 5.4 assists per game this season.

The loss against Colby gives the Continentals an overall record of 11-11, with a conference record of 2-6. With only two games remaining in the season, Hamilton is in a three-way tie for the eighth and final NESCAC playoff spot with Bowdoin and Colby. In what has been some

*see **Basketball** page 15*

PHOTO BY SINDY CHEN '19

Hamilton has shot 50 percent from three-point range and 45 percent overall over its past two games.

M. hockey clinging to home-ice advantage despite weekend losses

	1	2	3	OT	T
Colby	1	0	0	1	2
Hamilton	1	0	0	0	1
> Buitenhuis (HAM): 26 saves, .929 save %					

by Kaitlin McCabe '16
Editor Emerita

Despite its unnerving weekend facing Colby (4-8-2 NESCAC; #9) and Bowdoin (6-5-3 NESCAC; #5), the Hamilton College men's hockey team (7-5-2 NESCAC; #3) remains near the top of the overall conference standings. The nail-biting action and losses in both games left both players and fans devastated and exasperated, but in reality, the results were not that detrimental to the team's standings or mentality.

"It's really important to remember that despite a disappointing home weekend, we're still in a pretty good place in the standings," alternate captain Tyler Lovejoy '16 emphasized. "Our goals to secure a home playoff game and to win the NESCAC championship have not changed."

The Mules held the Continentals in neck-and-neck competition on Friday, Feb. 5, forcing the teams into overtime. Both teams came out strong in the opening period: Colby's Geoff Sullivan scored a power-play goal 2:35 into play, and Hamilton's Neil Conway '18 tied the score midway through the period. Brandon Willett '18 and Robbie Murden '17 both assisted on the play.

Conway and Murden lead the NESCAC in both points (24 and 28, respectively) and assists (16 and 15).

Hamilton almost closed the game just at the start of the allotted overtime, when team captain Kenny Matheson '16 claimed a Bowdoin shot-on-goal blocked by Hamilton's Evan Buitenhuis '18. Matheson proceeded to launch a 2-on-2 rush, but his promising play was ultimately unsuccessful, his attempted shot-on-goal grazing the crossbar. From then on, it appeared as though the game would end in a stalemate. But as the clock ran down below the 30 second mark, Colby's Devin Albert shot the puck past Buitenhuis, netting the game winning goal.

With its 2-1 victory, Colby earned its third NESCAC win of the season.

If the Continentals were slightly unnerved after facing Colby, they were staggered by Bowdoin's action in the rink. A whopping total of 10 Bowdoin players contributed to the team's winning six goals.

Midway through the first period, the guests scored three times in a short span of 2:03 to dominate their hosts—a lead that would carry throughout the entirety of the game.

Hamilton reached the board less than two minutes into the second period, thanks to a slap shot from Conor Lamberti '17. Conway sent a pass from behind the net to Murden below the right faceoff circle and Murden's cross-ice pass to Lamberti set up the goal. At 3-1, a rebound was attainable, but the Polar Bears fiercely clinched their unstoppable lead in the second half of the period, scoring two more goals and thus extending their dominance on the ice to 5-1.

Though Hamilton continued to challenge Bowdoin in the final period, the team's chance of redemption was slim. Conway, assisted by Murden and Lovejoy, scored a goal off of a rebound, bringing the score to 5-2, but Bowdoin matched it with an empty-

PHOTO BY MIKE VEROSTEK '16

Murden upped his NESCAC-leading point total to 28.

*see **Hockey** page 15*